

Main Street Reisterstown Program Minutes

Location/Date: Reter's Crabhouse, Reisterstown - January 14, 2013

Attendees: Amy Mantay, Glenn Barnes, Mary Molinaro, Calvin Reter, Shirley Smith, Kathy Gambrell, Dan Carey, Kevin Kowitz, Tony Baysmore, Christy Tasker, Ernie Schmidhauser, Charlie Brittain, Barbara Burdette, Kinsey Gill, Tina Johansson, Jonathan Schwartz, Bhasat Patel, Stuart Zaller, Nick Vitale, Jimmy Roberts, Irwin Kramer, Captain McElwee, Officer Willis, Mike Reiner, Bob Begleiter, Brad Reter, Alexis Kosmas

Calvin opened the meeting explaining to those who were attending our meeting for the first time that we have been meeting weekly to work on Main Street issues. The groups have been working with the County Planning Office, Reisterstown Improvement Association, ROG Coordinating Council, Reisterstown Owings Mills Glyndon Chamber of Commerce, and all interested business owners and property owners. He introduced Amy Mantay as the person from the County Planning Office working with us.

After everyone in attendance introduced themselves Amy explained that she started her career in North Carolina working on Main Street Projects and is excited about working as our Main Street Manager as we get organized and work towards becoming accepted in the Main Street Maryland program. Amy handed out an agenda and explained that we are trying to staff the 5 committees we need to apply for the program and told everyone that we are working in our weekly meetings (since November, 2012) towards a major meeting for all stakeholders in March, 2013. Amy handed out an agenda which included the website link: baltimorecountymd.gov/go/Reisterstown. She explained to everyone that if you Click "Explore" on the right side you can click to see an interactive map organized by type of businesses where you can click and see the business at that location. They will be working towards also hyperlinking the business' website and/or a statement about the business.

She also is working with the National Trust Main Street. Amy handed out a description of the mission of each committee and currently those who have volunteered for the committees are:

Organization: Mary Molinaro, Lorena DeLeon, Alice Reid and Ernie Schmidhauser

Economic Restructuring: Paul Davolos, Glenn Barnes, Calvin Reter, Shirley Smith

Promotion: Glenn Barnes and Christy Tasker

Design: Irwin Kramer, Glenn Barnes, and Calvin Reter

Clean, Safe & Green: Dan Carey and Kevin Kowitz

Amy introduced Captain McElwee who came to speak as part of our Safe committee as many residents expressed concern over the crime that has been happening to businesses. He thanked everyone for coming and explained that it was gatherings like today which provided a great opportunity to communicate information. It is a good way to share ideas about the area and the best way to work

together. He said that his precinct has been able to provide services needed by the area and still remain under the manpower budget and benchmarks set by the county. He is very proud to do so and still meet the objectives. Sometimes that can be challenging and as an example he explained that after the shooting incident in Connecticut December 14th, he had to be sure there were officers available before, during and after school hours for each of the schools covered by his precinct. As far as the recent incidents, they do not have any suspects yet for the 2 robberies at the Citgo station. They did make an arrest for the robbery at Susquehanna Bank and the robbery at M&T Bank last year is still open. In 2012, his precinct had the 3rd lowest rate for incidents in the County. However, he emphasized that every incident is important to them. Ten days ago he redeployed 10 officers to give an increased presence on Main Street and is considering a bicycle patrol this coming spring. They are using their crime data to help decide where to deploy to anticipate situations before they occur. The Captain will always be available to anyone who wants to talk to him. He is a big proponent of volunteerism and believes that citizens can provide great information so encouraged everyone to contact the police when they see something.

The Captain then opened the floor for questions:

Jimmy – asked if the recent robberies were committed by people from the area and the Captain said the suspect from the Susquehanna Bank robbery had a city address. He said he has 10 cars on the 3-11 shift posted to our area with 16-25 out in the area, there are no spare cars at the station. Everyone is play managing before, during, and after school and community coverage. Should the need arise, he has room to add more officers. He was asked about the average response time for calls and said that he thought 3-4 minutes for emergencies was a fair estimate while “non-violent” situations may be closer to an hour. He also said citizens can take advantage of the new iWatch program on the county website to report “non-violent” situations either anonymously or providing their names.

Mike – questioned the response time. At his store when dealing with a customer passing counterfeit money, he had to wait 12 minutes for an officer to arrive which was very difficult. Mike also asked if canines are being used to find suspects, particularly with the robberies where the suspect escapes on foot. He felt they might provide a better deterrent than just using the helicopters. Captain McElwee explained that it often has to do with timing whether the handlers believe the dogs will be helpful.

Glenn – discussed the length of time that officers keep their lights on while investigating a situation and whether it was necessary/required all the time. He felt that it can cause concerns shopping at neighboring stores as people feel like they should stay away. Captain McElwee said that it is a safety issue at the discretion of the officer on sight and not really a requirement. If they make a stop on Main Street which is very skinny, it helps make drivers aware to slow down.

Amy -- asked about the point of contact that we can publish for everyone. He said that Officer Willis who was at the meeting should be the first person to whom we ask to speak and introduced him as a member of the Community Outreach Team. His number is 410-887-6985

Alexis – said she has worked successfully with Officer Krueger and Sergeant Ledley and wondered if they are still on the team. She felt like they kept a file of the problems in the area and were very much aware and able to keep an upper hand and be very effective managing problems and hopes their model is used by other officers. Captain McElwee said they all discuss and work to use effective methods.

Bob – asked if officers who stop people on Reisterstown Road can possible to do so off the Main Road as it can cause quite a traffic jam when there for awhile. Captain McElwee said he understands the problem but pulling onto private property has its own problems.

Glenn – asked about speeding along Main Street and dangers at crosswalks.

Irwin – mentioned the problems at the sharp curve where the road narrows from 4 to 2 lanes. Stuart who also has his business at that area said the constant screeching of brakes and accidents should be enough to do something about the speeding. Stuart said that at one time a radar study was conducted and some stripes were put down on the road but it is still a daily problem.

Tina – discussed the concern of danger because no one stops at crosswalks and people cross where there aren't crosswalks such as in front of the McDonald's and the High School which is very dangerous. She feels there has been increased speeding ever since the light was installed at Glyndon Drive. People drive north and south through that intersection like it is a four lane road instead of a two lane road. She also discussed a problem they are experiencing with drug addicts coming into her store trying to pawn items which they don't accept and then shoplifting while in the store. Kinsey who works for Tina said it is a daily problem but without hard evidence they don't call the police. They would like police presence on the street as they believe it would deter the robbers. Tina said they just had a ladder stolen Thursday night.

Amy asked about the idea of starting a COP program on Main Street. Mary mentioned they have a very successful program in Chartley. Captain McElwee said that the County currently doesn't offer the program to commercial districts although we can discuss how we might employ some of the same techniques.

Kathy announced that she has membership applications for the Reisterstown Improvement Association for anyone interested in joining. Glenn reminded everyone that the monthly will be held tomorrow evening at 7pm at Long & Foster. Mary passed around an agenda asking anyone interested in joining a committee to sign their name.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15am

The next meeting will be held at Reter's Crabhouse, Tuesday, January 22, 2013 at 10am.